



PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 041465-5108

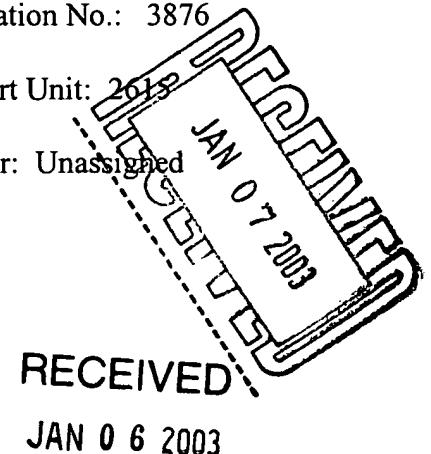
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Masanori NAKAHARA, et al.)
Application No.: 09/826,009)
Filed: April 5, 2001)
For: INFORMATION RECORDING MEDIUM,)
INFORMATION RECORDING)
APPARATUS AND METHOD,)
INFORMATION REPRODUCING)
APPARATUS AND METHOD,)
COMPUTER DATA SIGNAL EMBODIED)
IN A CARRIER WAVE)

Confirmation No.: 3876

Group Art Unit: 2613

Examiner: Unassigned



Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-identified Application. Accordingly, Applicants do not believe that a fee is due for filing this paper.

A European Search Report and Annex dated December 13, 2002, from a corresponding European Patent Application are attached with the documents cited thereon. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents and evidence that consideration by making the appropriate notations on the attached PTO Form 1449.

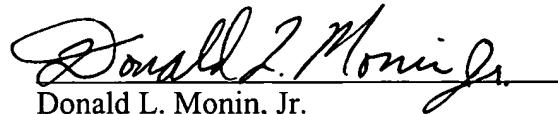
This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that any of the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such a document.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present Application.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this Application, including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required and including any required extension of time fees, *or* credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

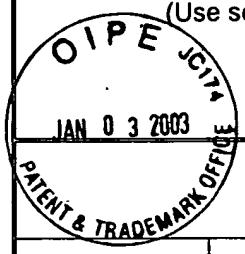
Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 3, 2003

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION  (Use several sheets if necessary)				Attorney Docket No.: 041465-5108		Application No.: 09/826,009	
				Applicants: Masanori NAKAHARA, et al.			
				PAGE 1 of 1			
PTO Form 1449				Filing Date: April 5, 2001		Group Art Unit: Unassigned	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date
RECEIVED							
JAN 06 2003							
Technology Center 2600							
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	<u>Translation</u> YES NO
		EP 0 971 535 A2	Jan. 12, 2000	EPO			
		WO 99/34601 A2	Jul. 8, 1999	WIPO			
		EP 0 994 480 A1	Apr. 19, 2000	EPO			
		EP 0 920 006 A2	Jun. 2, 1999	EPO			
		EP 0 944 087 A2	Sept. 22, 1999	EPO			
		EP 0 986 060 A1	Mar. 15, 2000	EPO			
		EP 0 940 815 A2	Sept. 8, 1999	EPO			
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
Examiner				Date Considered			
Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							